

Ahmedabad/Bombay for snag rectification of radio equipment yearly servicing/certification; it also went to Jabalpur against payment and also for Con-Training.

(f) The Aircraft has not been misused.

Refunds for Cancelled Tickets

1083. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problems faced by the commuters in getting the refunds after cancellation of tickets (Reservation) purchased from the Computer Reservation Centres in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in getting refunds;

(c) whether the Government propose to modify the system in this regard;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the total number of persons who returned reservation tickets and got the refund during the last six months and the number of persons still waiting for refund; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Govt. to refund the amount within a week?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) and (b). No such problems have come to notice. Under the existing Rules, refund on cancelled tickets is granted at the computerised Reservation counter itself till the printing of charts of the relevant train, and upto 6 hours after the departure of the train at the station. In cases where refund is not admissible at the station, the ticket is deposited at the station and ticket deposit receipt issued to the passenger. Refund is granted by the CCS (Refund) of the ticket issuing Railway based on the merits of each case.

(c) and (d). The existing procedure is working satisfactorily and there is no proposal to modify these rules.

(e) The total number of cases received for refund on all zonal railways from July '91 to Dec. '91 were 1,46,075. Out of them, refund has already been granted in 1,32,022 cases and 14,053 cases were pending as on 31.12.1991.

(f) Refund is granted on the spot in respect of the tickets cancelled at the Reservation Counter before printing of the charts and upto 6 hours after the departure of the train at the station. In other cases, refund is normally granted within 16 days provided timely request accompanied with relevant documents is received.

[Translation]

Primary Education for Children

1084. SHRI BAREILAL JATAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UNICEF in its Report for the 1992 has pointed to the fact that even the primary education is not being imparted to a major section of children's in our country; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) In its Report titled 'The State of the World' Children 1992' the UNICEF document mentions that in India approximately half of the nation's children fail to finish primary school.

(b) Government is aware that the retention in primary schools is unsatisfactory. According to latest available statistics relating to 1987-88, retention rate at the primary stage is 53.03%.

The National Policy on Education, 1986,